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20 JAN 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence
SUBJECT: Request for Study and a Report on AAM/MIG-21
Capability of Red China

1. Recent information points to the possibility of the Chicoms having acquired an air-to-air missile capability associated with their MIG-21 Aircraft. Should the missile be an improved Sidewinder type, or a similar weapon of native manufacture, it would present a serious threat to the IDEALIST/TACKLE Program. There has been no firm evidence, to our knowledge, of an attempted intercept employing an air-to-air missile against the [] U-2 Aircraft.

25X1

2. I request that OSI make a special study to determine if an air-to-air missile capability exists in Communist China, particularly one which might be a threat to the [] U-2 at 25X1 operational altitude, (69,000 - 72,000 feet). The study and resulting report should be comprehensive and in detail. We recommend that NPIC, NSA and DIA be asked to coordinate on this study and that the results be based on latest photography available, as well as all other recent intelligence which might contribute to the report.

3. Subject report should be available not later than 11 February 1965.

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

JACK C. LEDFORD
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ID/OSA/[]:nlm (27 Jan 65)

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